

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 153688 TOSEC 050039

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 153688 SENT ACTION BEIRUT 30 JUNE

QUOTE:

S E C R E T STATE 153688

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, LE

SUBJECT: CALL ON PRESIDENT FRANGIE

REF: BEIRUT 7609

1. YOUR REQUEST FOR INFORMATION YOU COULD PASS TO FRANGIE ABOUT RECENT TALKS WITH MIDDLE EAST LEADERS CAME ON EVE OF KHADDAM VISIT, AND WE WAITED FOR COMPLETION THAT VISIT IN ORDER TO GIVE YOU COMPOSITE PICTURE. YOU MAY PASS SUBSTANCE PARAS 2-5 TO FRANGIE.

2. AS FRANGIE KNOWS, WE HAVE BEEN TAKING FUNDAMENTAL LOOK AT QUESTION OF HOW NEGOTIATING PROGRESS CAN BE REGENERATED

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FOLLOWING SUSPENSION OF MARCH NEGOTIATIONS. WE PROCEED

FROM DETERMINATION THAT PROLONGED STALEMATE IS UNACCEPTABLE; QUESTION IS HOW, NOT WHETHER, STALEMATE CAN BE AVOIDED. BASIC OPTIONS ARE (A) REVIVAL OF STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH, IN FIRST INSTANCE THROUGH NEW INTERIM AGREEMENT IN SINAI, OR (B) MOVEMENT DIRECTLY TO NEGOTIATIONS ON OVERALL SETTLEMENT, WITH PREPARATIONS FOR GENEVA CONFERENCE.

3. WE HAVE FOCUSED ON THESE TWO DIPLOMATIC OPTIONS IN ALL OF THE RECENT TALKS, AND HAVE REVIEWED IN DEPTH THE PRESENT SITUATION AND THE COURSES OF ACTION OPEN IN MOVING PEACE

NEGOTIATIONS FORWARD. IN EACH CASE, WE SOUGHT THE VIEWS OF THE OTHER PARTY ON HOW TO PROCEED, BUT NO FINAL DECISION WAS REACHED. THE TALKS WERE USEFUL, AND WE HOPE THEY WILL FORM THE BASIS FOR PROGRESS IN THE PERIOD AHEAD.

4. EACH MEETING OF COURSE HAD ITS OWN PARTICULAR FLAVOR. MEETING WITH EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT IN SALZBURG WAS A FIRST MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTS, SO ESTABLISHMENT OF PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WAS IMPORTANT PURPOSE IN ADDITION TO SUBSTANCE DISCUSSED. WE ASSURED SADAT OF US INTEREST IN AVOIDING STALEMATE, AND WE WERE IMPRESSED WITH SADAT'S FORCEFUL REITERATION THAT EGYPT IS LOOKING FOR WAY TO MOVE TOWARD PEACE. DURING TALKS WITH ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER RABIN, WE REVIEWED THE SITUATION AND POSSIBLE APPROACHES TO MOVING NEGOTIATIONS FORWARD. WITH SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM, WE MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE ARE COMMITTED TO PROGRESS ON ALL RPT ALL FRONTS, AND THAT WE SHALL REMAIN FULLY INVOLVED IN ASSISTING ALL OF THE PARTIES AS LONG AS IT IS THEIR DESIRE.

5. WE CONSIDER REOPENING OF THE SUEZ CANAL, PARTIAL PULL-BACK OF ISRAELI FORCES, AND SYRIA'S SIX-MONTH EXTENSION OF UN FORCES MANDATE AS ENCOURAGING SIGNS. IN REGARD TO THE POSSIBILITY OF EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS, WE BELIEVE THERE HAS BEEN SOME EVOLUTION IN THE THINKING OF BOTH SIDES ON SOME OF THE ISSUES WHICH PREVENTED CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS IN MARCH, BUT WE ARE NOT YET AT A STAGE TO JUDGE WHETHER ANOTHER INTERIM AGREEMENT IS

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POSSIBLE. WE ARE CONTINUING CONTACTS WITH BOTH SIDES THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS TO FURTHER ASSESS THIS POSSIBILITY. IN EACH OF THE TALKS WE HAVE, AS ALREADY INDICATED, ALSO DISCUSSED THE OPTION OF NEGOTIATING AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT AND REVIEWED THE CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED IN RECONVENING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. INGERSOLL
UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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